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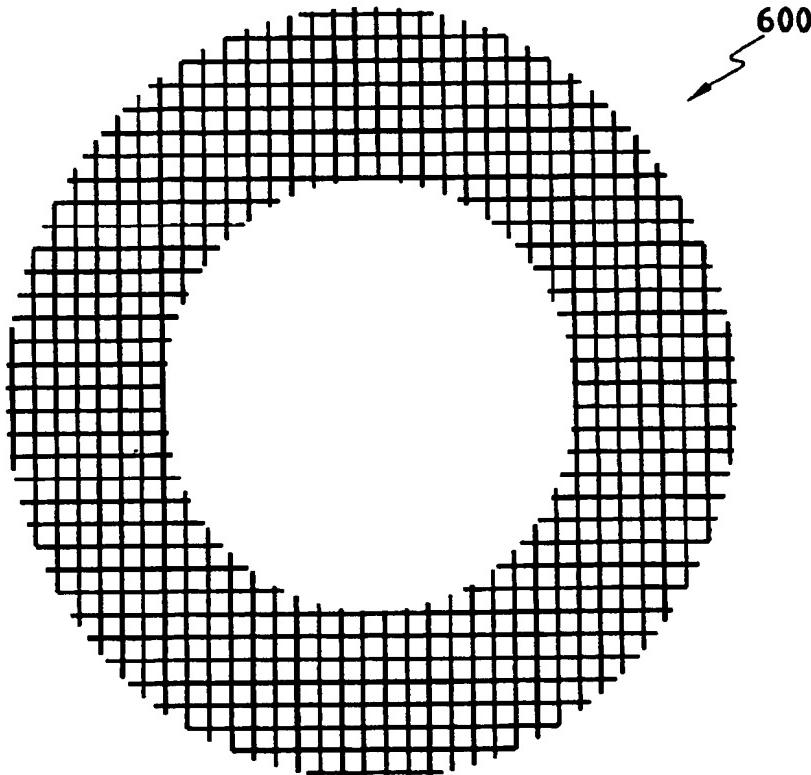
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(54) Title: ONE PIECE SHIM



(57) Abstract: A one-piece or
otherwise unitary annular shim
member made from a perforated
metallic material is used to maintain
a space between stacked annular
preforms during a manufacturing
process, such as densification. The
metallic material used preferably can
withstand at least the temperatures
encountered during densification. The
one-piece structure advantageously
simplifies the arrangement of the
preforms in a process chamber
and causes less deformation in the
preforms. In one example, the shim
member is made from a metallic mesh
and may utilize a crimped weave
structure.



GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	US 4 154 322 A (TERAI YOSHIYUKI ET AL) 15 May 1979 (1979-05-15)	

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Information on patent family members

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